

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A reduced-noise backsheet comprising:

a substrate layer which defines a first surface having a surface area and a target region;
and

a noise-reducing layer which substantially completely coats said target region, said noise-reducing layer having a basis weight of at least about three grams per square meter.

11. (Previously Presented) The reduced-noise backsheet of claim 10 wherein said target region is at least about 75% of said surface area of said first surface.

12. (Previously Presented) The reduced-noise backsheet of claim 10 wherein said basis weight is at least about four grams per square meter.

13. (Previously Presented) The reduced-noise backsheet of claim 10 wherein said noise-reducing layer consists essentially of at least one of polyisoprene, polybutadiene, polyisobutylene, polyurethanes, silicone rubber, atactic polypropylene, and a synthetic block co-polymer.

14. (Previously Presented) The reduced-noise backsheet of claim 10 wherein said noise-reducing layer consists essentially of at least one of styrene block co-polymers and olefin-based adhesives.

15. (Previously Presented) The reduced-noise backsheet of claim 10 wherein said substrate layer comprises a thermoplastic, polymeric film.

16. (Previously Presented) The reduced-noise backsheet of claim 15 wherein said substrate layer is non-elastomeric.

17. (Previously Presented) The reduced-noise backsheet of claim 15 further comprising a nonwoven layer adhered to said substrate layer.

18. (Previously Presented) The reduced-noise backsheet of claim 15 wherein said substrate layer comprises at least one of polyethylene and polypropylene.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a body-side liner;

a garment-side outer cover, said outer cover comprising:

a liquid-impermeable substrate layer comprised of a thermoplastic, polymeric material and which defines a first surface having a surface area and a target area; and

a noise-reducing layer which substantially completely coats said target region, said noise-reducing layer having a basis weight of at least about three grams per square meter; and

an absorbent assembly disposed between said body-side liner and said garment-side outer cover.

22. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 21 wherein said target region has an area which is at least about 50% of said surface area of said first surface.

23. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 21 wherein said target region has an area which is at least about 75% of said surface area of said first surface.

24. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 21 wherein said basis weight is at least about four grams per square meter.

25. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 21 wherein said noise-reducing layer consists essentially of at least one of polyisoprene, polybutadiene, polyisobutylene, polyurethanes, silicone rubber, atactic polypropylene, and a synthetic block co-polymer.
26. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 21 wherein said noise-reducing layer consists essentially of at least one of styrene block co-polymers and olefin-based adhesives.
27. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 21 wherein said substrate layer comprises a thermoplastic, polymeric film.
28. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 27 wherein said substrate layer is non-elastomeric.
29. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 27 further comprising a nonwoven layer.
30. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 27 wherein said substrate layer comprises at least one of polyethylene and polypropylene.
31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) A disposable absorbent article comprising:
a body-side liner;
a garment-side outer cover, said outer cover comprising a liquid-impermeable substrate layer comprised of a thermoplastic, polymeric material and which defines a first surface having a surface area; a noise-reducing layer which substantially completely coats a target region of said first surface; and
an absorbent assembly disposed between said body-side liner and said garment-side outer cover,
wherein the article has a Noise Level of less than 30.0 dB at 2 kHz and less than 28.0 dB at 4 kHz.
33. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article of claim 32, wherein the target region has an area which is at least about 50% of said surface area;
said noise-reducing layer having a basis weight of at least about three grams per square meter.
34. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 33 wherein said noise-reducing layer consists essentially of at least one of polyisoprene, polybutadiene, polyisobutylene, polyurethanes, silicone rubber, atactic polypropylene, and a synthetic block co-polymer.
35. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 32 wherein said substrate layer comprises a non-elastomeric thermoplastic, polymeric material.
36. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 35 further comprising a nonwovenlayer adhered to said substrate layer.